

Solano County Weed Management Area
Base Funding Application, 2008 Cycle - Work Plan

January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009

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Contract confirmation: All projects described in this work plan will be in one contract with Solano County Weed Management Area

WMA Group affiliation: Solano County Weed Management Area (a single county WMA group)

Proposed Project

Title: Regional artichoke thistle control on high-value lands in western Solano County

Project Goal: Our goal is to complete our control program for artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*) in western Solano County. In March 2008, Solano County WMA used 2007 Cycle WMA funds to herbicide treat approximately 300 net acres of artichoke thistle in the western portion of Solano County on Solano Land Trust (SLT) properties and on adjacent privately-owned cattle ranches. Approximately 400-450 acres of artichoke thistle are still left untreated at the project site. We plan to utilize 2008 WMA Base Funding to continue this program and will also be applying for \$20,212 of 2008 WMA Supplemental Funding to complete the project.

We have developed a project plan such that, in the event we do not receive Supplemental Funding, our program, though reduced in scope, can still proceed forward efficiently using Base Funding alone. To this end, we would prioritize target populations of artichoke thistle that are either located on the upwind side of the invaded area or are relatively isolated so as to prevent reinvasion of treated patches from untreated areas. Additionally, if we do not receive Supplemental funding, we would maximize our use of existing regional collaborators and reduce the amount of time spent bringing new partners (City of Vallejo, Hiddenbrooke Homeowners Association) into the project.

Project Tasks: Since this program is a continuation of last year’s efforts, many tasks necessary for the completion of this project have already been accomplished. A detailed weed control plan has already been prepared for the site, sensitive areas have been delineated to avoid spraying, herbicide type and application rate have been determined, and monitoring activities are already in place. Furthermore, all necessary CEQA and USFWS permits are secured through 2009. Since we propose to fund this project using Base and Supplemental Funding, the following table indicates which funding source is associated with each task.

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Agency	Task	Funding Source
SRCD, SLT	Work with the City of Vallejo and the Hiddenbrooke Homeowners Association to solicit participation in the program and to conduct outreach efforts necessary to educate landowners about the project	Supplemental In-kind
SRCD, UCCE	Contract with a pest control adviser to develop herbicide application recommendations	Base/Supplemental In-kind
SRCD	Purchase Milestone® herbicide plus surfactants, drift control and dye	Base/Supplemental
SRCD, SLT NRCS, UCCE	Ground truth the previous weed mapping effort and determine 2009 spraying areas	Base/Supplemental In-kind
SRCD	Contract with a helicopter applicator to aerially apply herbicide to large artichoke thistle invasion sites on SLT and City of Vallejo properties	Base - 150 acres Supplemental – 200 acres
SLT, private ranchers	Conduct ground-based spot spraying on smaller artichoke invasion sites on SLT property and on adjacent private ranches	In-kind labor
SRCD, SLT	Monitor the site pre- and post-application, discuss project results with all of the partners, and make adaptive management suggestions as needed	Base/Supplemental In-kind
SRCD	Submit the final report to the granting agency and to the Solano County WMA	Base/Supplemental

Performance measures: We will monitor the successes of our herbicide applications by measuring changes in percent cover of artichoke thistle along already-established transect lines three times during the year. We will also utilize photomonitoring to document artichoke thistle mortality in treated areas.